Florida Coastal Wins Jessup Regional Moot Court Competition

The last few weeks before the briefs were due, the students were putting in long hours,” said Professor Roederer. “During the month leading up to the regional rounds, they were meeting and working on the problem pretty much every day. Several of the team members were putting in 20 to 30 hours a week,” he said.

This year, the super regional competitions were in Miami, where the Florida Coastal team competed against 22 other teams. Florida Coastal defeated teams from Vanderbilt, Georgia State, and St. Thomas in the preliminary rounds before defeating Florida International University and the University of Georgia in the out rounds, and finally taking the win against the University of Alabama. The Jessup Competitions are a unique experience for American law students due to the highly specialized nature of International Law. According to Lasseter, it is rare for American law students to be exposed to this area of law in great detail.

“The research methods are very different from typical United States domestic law research,” said Lasseter. “Also, because the International Court of Justice is a civil law system, rather than a common law system, the advantages and disadvantages of common law precedent do not apply,” he said.

April 7th through April 12th, Florida Coastal will compete against 90 teams in Washington, D.C. Last year, the team finished among the top ten teams in the world, and in 2006, among the best 21 teams at the International Rounds. The winner of the final round in Washington, D.C., is named the World Champion.

Professor Roederer and his team from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, claimed the World Champion title in 2002. The team consisted of two students, Stephen Budlender and Kate Hofmeyer. Both are now Advocates in South Africa. An advocate is the equivalent of a Barrister in the English system. Professor Roederer taught in Johannesburg for almost six years before coming to Florida Coastal. Both Lassen and Marshall agree the Florida Coastal team would be completely lost without Professor Roederer. However, Professor Roederer said his efforts are “just the tip of the iceberg compared to [the team’s] efforts.”

“He is, without a doubt, the reason our teams do so well in the competitions,” said Marshall. “We couldn’t have accomplished what we have over the past three years without Professor Roederer, who sacrifices his time and patience to coach his teams to victory, and Professor Moody, who trains all Moot Court members to put forth nothing short of their best efforts when representing Florida Coastal,” he said.

Thomas Taggart: Florida Coastal’s New Assistant Dean

The new Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Thomas Taggart, is charging into his new position with eagerness and enthusiasm. Taggart considers himself a people person, a characteristic that will help him understand the students and their needs. Taggart’s goal while at Florida Coastal is to “put a stamp on the student affairs area and work with the students to create the best comprehensive program by tailoring support and activities to student affairs.”

Taggart grew up in Ohio, but has lived in Jacksonville for the past 23 years and considers it home. Taggart received his Bachelor of Sciences in Chemistry and Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering, both from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Before obtaining his position at Florida Coastal, Taggart was in the corporate world managing an engineering department, where he was in charge of engineering teams that he project managed, coached and counseled as well. Taggart says despite his technical background, his experiences have caused him to evolve into a people person.

One thing that amazes Taggart is, “that students are able to balance their school workload with activities, work, and family” and said that it shows promise for each student’s future. However, he thinks it is important to keep students engaged and wants to support Florida Coastal students and increase their chances for success. Taggart hopes to undertake a initiative that is “strong in multiculturism” and would like to “improve the campus community and atmosphere.” Taggart has not yet completed his first two months at Florida Coastal, but is a mentor and advocate for groups like SBA, ABA, and Ambassadors, yet still wishes to become more involved in student activities. In addition to his involvement with student activity groups, Taggart works closely and collaboratively with Academic, Success, Career, Services and other departments for students in order to ensure that the students are getting the help that they need. Taggart said he’s been keeping busy meeting with students throughout the day and working with them on an individual level with their various inquiries, such as application amendments and signing off on study abroad programs. Taggart sees the students as customers, believes that each student’s background and problems are unique and addresses each issue individually. Taggart said he approaches pressing issues in a progressive manner in order to create sustainable solutions.

Taggart’s vision is that students who come to Florida Coastal feel at home and are furnished with the tools they need to be successful. Taggart believes that “if you build the right skills, you can shift them to other areas in life.” A Helen Keller quote that Taggart explains helped him get through graduate school is, “character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.”

Taggart sees his career change as permanent and said that he would like to finish his working career at Florida Coastal. Taggart is heavily invested in Florida Coastal and wants “students to look back on their law school career and say it was a full experience, would recommend it to others, and feel proud that they are alumni of Florida Coastal.”
Florida Coastal Teachers

CHRISTINA SHACKELFORD
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Last fall, Javier Rivera, 2L, and Jacksonville Area Legal Aid Intern, put his background in education to good use by compiling a sample curriculum for the Credit Abuse Resistance Education Program.

The program, implemented in Jacksonville by JALA Associate, April Charmey, pairs local attorneys and Coastal students to teach 9th graders the potential pitfalls of credit and debit cards. More than 30 Coastal students will visit 9th graders at Andrew Jackson, Jean Ribault, and Terry Parker High Schools to help dispel preconceived notions about credit scores.

“Most kids think that if you make a lot of money, you have a great credit score,” said Rivera. “But they don’t realize just how much they didn’t know about credit until they took the classes,” said Rivera.

In fact, they are so responsive to the program that they have requested more information on specific topics such as “pay day loans, rent-to-own, college financing and student loans,” said Deanna Blair, Coastal student and JALA Intern. If you would like to get involved, contact JALA or visit the national care program website at http://www.careprogram.us/.

Donate Your Textbooks For A Good Cause

ASHLEY DUBOSE
MANAGING EDITOR

The International Legal Exchange (ILEX) Ghana Task Force has begun a project aimed at helping law schools in the Republic of Ghana, in West Africa. Since its delegation meeting in 2007, the ILEX Ghana Task Force has embarked on an initiative to assist the Ghana Bar Association with its dire need for legal textbooks. The basic tenant of the initiative is to collect law textbooks donated by students and alumni here in the United States.

The Task Force is asking for used or new textbooks and supplements on substantive law, as well as rule of law subjects, to be shipped to Ghana. They are looking for books primarily from the core classes, like Criminal Law, Property, and Torts. Constitutional Law books are not needed, as they are inapplicable in Ghana. For this reason, Angela Aifah, 2L, is coordinating with the Coastal ABA Chapter, BLSA, and CAPIL to organize the collection of your donated text books and used supplements. In upcoming weeks, information will be circulated on campus with the details of when the collection will officially begin and the room in which to drop off your used books.

To volunteer, make donations, or to find out more information, please contact the coordinator at aaaaifah@fcsl.edu.

Carribbean Law Clinic Goes Jamaican

DANIELLA DIAZ
ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On February 20, 2008, seven students and three professors traveled to Kingston, Jamaica, to meet with Dorothy Lightbourne, Jamaica’s General. Participating law schools are located in Florida, Texas, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Tobago.

The Normal Manley Law School at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, provided the venue for this semester’s visit to the Caribbean.

At the start of the semester, students were assigned four legal issues related to the following areas: searches and seizures in violation of the attorney-client privilege, excessive damages for libel, government and judicial reform, and mutual assistance between countries.

The task was to research the issues, write a brief detailing the analyses, and present findings to Lightbourne. “The Florida Coastal students were clearly among the most articulate and well-prepared of the students participating in the clinic,” said Professor Pimentel. “I think [Professor Groves and I] came away impressed with the collaboration that is already happening with current Coastal students, and with the whole clinic framework set up by Professor Knechtle with his counterparts at the other schools.” Although Professor Pimentel and Professor Groves were in Jamaica to promote legal, economic, and judicial development in the Caribbean region, they kindly assisted students in preparing their presentations for the Attorney General.

Students interested in applying for the Caribbean Law Clinic should contact Professor Knechtle or visit www.fcsl.edu/acli.
**NFL Loses Its “Iron Man”**

In the spring of 1991, a young man from Gulfport, Mississippi, entered the NFL draft as an unknown. He was arrogant and thought he knew it all. He had a funny southern accent and almost no one knew how to say his last name. That man was Brett Favre. Of course, Favre was a star at the University of Southern Mississippi, but many viewed him as just another kid. Favre started his NFL career after he was drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the second round (33rd overall pick). In Atlanta, Favre really didn’t see much action, starting not one single game and participating in a few. So with little respect and only one season in Atlanta, Favre was traded to Green Bay in 1992, where the rest became history.

Out of the 17 seasons Brett Favre played in the NFL, 16 were in the “frozen tundra” that is Lambeau Field. During that time, Favre became one of the biggest and brightest stars of them all, breaking all quarterback records for passing yards in his career (61,655), attempts (8,758), completions (5,377), touchdowns (442), interceptions (288), and consecutive starts (253), which is truly astounding for a man of his age.

He also won a remarkable three MVP’s from 1995-1997 (the only player in history to do so), and took the Packers to back-to-back Super Bowls in 1996 and 1997 (defeating the New England Patriots in 1996). He has done it all, and on Monday, March 7, 2008, he decided that it was time to hang up the “cheese head” and call it quits. At his final press conference, which could be found on almost every news channel on television, an emotional Brett Favre walked out onto the stage and gave the most important speech of his life.

As the tears welled up in his eyes, he stated “I know I can play, but I don’t know if I want to,” and that it was “never my accomplishments, it was about our accomplishments,” referring to the Packers organization.

“There’s only one way for me to play the game, and that’s 100%,” said Favre. He explained that he was “mentally tired” from extensively preparing for each game, every season. Favre also noted that his age and physical condition had little or no effect in his decision.

He thanked everyone who gave him a chance and who believed that he was more than just the arrogant kid critics proclaimed he was. In the end, “it was never about the money, fame, or records,” rather, it was “competitive desire to win” said Favre.

Brett Favre showed humility and unsellishness towards his teammates and competitors throughout his career, and will be deeply missed by the NFL and its fans. Overall, you could say that Monday was a sad day, not only for the NFL, but for football fans nationwide. Nevertheless, it was also a triumphant day when a man who truly loved the game and his fans to decide to “sit on the bench” forever.
Law Week Banquet 2008

Megan Kerensky
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Randall Richardson, Chairman of the Law Week Banquet, along with Co-Chairman Whitney Wright should be proud of a very successful Law Week Banquet.

With the assistance of their staff, comprised of John Marees, Craig Call, Chiara St. Pierre, Kristin Yoder, Chip Lynn, Michael Dear, Kelly McCaffrey, and Shannon Fejeran, the 2008 Law Week Banquet was well-organized and professional.

The banquet concluded a week chockfull of student organization events and SBA election excitement. The banquet was held in the Grand Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Riverfront.

The meet and greet cocktail reception kicked off the evening in style and served as an opportunity to relay final good luck wishes to SBA hopefuls.

Michael Dear and Chip Lynn took the stage in their characteristically witty style to welcome everybody to the banquet. Kristin Rhodus presented a sentimental slide show illustrating Coastal students’ dedication to community involvement. Dean Goolerud welcomed all in attendance and praised the students responsible for organizing the evening’s festivities. Then, with the assistance of John Marees, 2L, represented Graduation Awards to distinguished 3L recipients, faculty and staff members.

Among the award recipients were the notable Professor Moody, whose acceptance of the Faculty Vision Award resulted in roaring applause coupled with a gracious standing ovation. This year’s banquet marked the second annual presentation of the Justice Raymond Ehrlich Award. This year’s award was presented to the Honorable Peggy A. Quince of the Florida Supreme Court. Upon receiving her award, Justice Quince took the stage and praised Florida Coastal for its continual achievements in academia and within the legal community.

She specifically recognized students who competed on Coastal’s Mock Trial and Moot Court teams, citing their accomplishments as an attribute to the law school’s positive recognition overall. Ian Cotner, outgoing SBA President, congratulated the evening’s winners and conveyed good luck wishes. Gwendeleyn Moody, whose acceptance of the Faculty Vision Award resulted in roaring applause coupled with a gracious standing ovation. This year’s banquet marked the second annual presentation of the Justice Raymond Ehrlich Award. This year’s award was presented to the Honorable Peggy A. Quince of the Florida Supreme Court. Upon receiving her award, Justice Quince took the stage and praised Florida Coastal for its continual achievements in academia and within the legal community. She specifically recognized students who competed on Coastal’s Mock Trial and Moot Court teams, citing their accomplishments as an attribute to the law school’s positive recognition overall. Ian Cotner, outgoing SBA President, congratulated the evening’s winners and conveyed good luck wishes. Gwendeleyn Moody, whose acceptance of the Faculty Vision Award resulted in roaring applause coupled with a gracious standing ovation. This year’s banquet marked the second annual presentation of the Justice Raymond Ehrlich Award. This year’s award was presented to the Honorable Peggy A. Quince of the Florida Supreme Court. Upon receiving her award, Justice Quince took the stage and praised Florida Coastal for its continual achievements in academia and within the legal community. She specifically recognized students who competed on Coastal’s Mock Trial and Moot Court teams, citing their accomplishments as an attribute to the law school’s positive recognition overall.

On Tuesday, the Florida Coastal Republicans hosted Super Tuesday, a first-rate debate with the Florida Coastal Democrats. The parties flashed their political panache and tried to sway the audience with their civic swagger. The topic of discussion was the 2008 Presidential Election. Brian Strickland and Corey Lewis served as the moderators. Lewis said, “both panels were professional, well-prepared, and eloquent.”

ELCAT also dished out the competition on Wednesday with its annual Professor Chili Cook-Off. For a fare of $5, students, faculty, and staff sampled the smorgasbord and cast their vote for the blue ribbon winner. ELCAT donated the proceeds to community projects and presented the winning professor with a Chili Cook-Off “Book Award.”

On Thursday, Florida Coastal pet owners brought their pampered poodles out to Coastal’s back deck for the Pro Bono Society’s annual Dog Show. The show offered talented tail-waggers a chance to compete for some prime prizes. Florida Coastal student, Keesha McCray, 2L, entered Quincy, her YorkiePoo, in the contest and “enjoyed getting to bring him to school.” Rosa MariaCeleste, 3L and Co-Director of the Pro Bono Society, said that all the money raised went to benefit the Jacksonville Humane Society’s furry Ambassadors, a program which promotes animal adoption and foster care. In addition, three bins of items listed on the Humane Society’s wish list will be donated to the shelter.

Thursday evening, HALSA sponsored Salsa Night at the Twisted Martini downtown. Students kicked back, relaxed, and watched the pros give it a go. Some even busted their own moves on the dance floor. Rounding out the week, APALSA, BLSA, HALSA, and SALSA hosted a BBQ at the Mirabella Condominium Complex Clubhouse. The event gave students, faculty, and staff an opportunity to mingle with some of Florida Coastal’s minority recruits and sample the finger lickin’ fare.
Professor Alexander Moody: Coastal’s White Knight

Professor Moody teaches Evidence, Business Associations, and Appellate Advocacy at Florida Coastal. In the past he taught Business Crimes, Contracts and various other intercession classes. Moody feels fortunate to have been able to teach classes in the legal areas he finds most interesting and that relate to his experience in private practice. Moody majored in History at the University of Virginia, where he served as President of the Washington Literacy Society and Debating Union, whose former members include Ethan Allen Poe and several Civil War generals. He went on to attend St. John’s University School of Law in New York City. Before teaching at Coastal, he worked for a large law firm in N.Y.C., and when he moved to Florida, he joined the largest law firm in Jacksonville. Having been a guest lecturer on advocacy at St. John’s University School of Law, teaching was something Moody always wanted to do. He started as an adjunct at Florida Coastal, and loved every minute. When offered the opportunity to join the faculty, Moody was thrilled. He feels blessed to be around such tremendous colleagues and students.

During the previous faculty advisor’s reign, he offered a work with individual teams as a coach. Once the former advisor left Coastal in the Spring of 2004, the interim Dean at the time asked Moody if he could “watch over” Moot Court for a while until the law school decided what to do. And so, the current wave of success and accomplishment was born. Moody has been the faculty advisor to the team ever since. The year Moody began heading the Honor Board, he took his first team to the semifinals at Orseck, the Florida State Championship. At Zehmer, his team was judged by the 1st D.C.A. and made it to the finals. Next it was off to the finals at the National Constitutional Law Competition, and it has been uphill ever since. Moody says that this early success paved the road for the current success of the Moot Court team. Scott McCaskill, 2L and a member of Moot Court, explains that “Moot Court has been an amazing experience, and it has been an honor to work with Professor Moody.” Moody’s teaching method can be quite intimidating, as anyone taking his class for the first time will tell you. He follows a somewhat traditional form of the Socratic method, but never in a way to embarrass anyone or elevate himself at the expense of students. Moody finds this teaching method to be the most effective way of encouraging students to learn the material. Ogo Anosike, 2L and former student of Professor Moody, describes his teaching method as “very direct, getting straight to the point and the heart of the matter. You leave class focused on the issues, instead of on anything else.” For those of you who fear getting called on in a moody’s classes, there is no need to avoid eye contact or slink down for that day. Sometimes he goes firing squad-style, working his way down a particular row of students. He reasons that, often times, friends sit together, and this shared pain is motivation. Students don’t want to have to default to their friend sitting next to them, either because they don’t want to put them on the spot, or they don’t want to hear how their best friend had to “bail” them out in class. Other days, he works his way around the roomdispersing his questions evenly, sometimes calling on students who have expertise in a certain area, or who have previously asked questions about that topic earlier in the semester.

He has a presence when he stands in front of the podium, unmatched by many professors. He strolls in the classroom with a quiet confidence, greets the class with a calm, cool “good afternoon,” followed by a witty description of the “road map” of the day. Michelle Tsvirkin, 2L, took Moody’s Evidence course and said, “I took a lot away from his class.” Professor Moody enjoys golfing and reading non-fiction novels when he gets the chance, but that is pretty rare. Most of his spare time is spent with his wife, Laura, and children: Madeline, 5 (pictured above), Juliet, 3, and Grayson, 1. Some of you might have met Maddie at the Law Week Banquet, as she was Moody’s adorable date. He considers his kids his greatest accomplishments. Moody is a huge New York Yankees fan, who just can’t admit that the Red Sox are the best team in baseball. If given the opportunity to do any job in the world, he would play centerfield for the Evil Empire. And if for some reason that didn’t work out, he would love to work for the U.S. Solicitor General’s Office, arguing in front of the Supreme Court. When asked what his plans were when he is done teaching, he replied “I don’t intend to ever be done teaching.” Moody has spent a lot of time doing pro bono work for indigent criminal defendants in federal court, fighting for individual liberties. In addition to his teaching responsibilities at Coastal, he would really like to represent children. He said there is a continual need for representation of children and wants to find a way to locate kids who get lost in the system. In law school, Moody learned about the art of persuasion, and soon realized how important it is to speak for others. Anyone who has heard him in class or worked with him on Moot Court can attest to that. He says that the art of persuasion is what lawyers do; they speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Moody found himself asking “what clients are most in need of having a voice? Where have all the white knights gone?” It is his goal to one day find a way to be that voice for children who are not heard. Moody’s advice to law students is to not worry about what you cannot control, and to stay in the moment. “Focus on the process and do not judge yourself by the results. Sometimes good decisions have bad results, but that does not make it a bad choice,” he said. Moody said to keep doing what you think is right and, in general, things will turn out fine. In response to Moody’s question, “where have all the white knights gone?”, well, I think we found one.
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Enjoy That Latte

CHRISTINA SHACKELDORF 
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On Saturday, Jeffrey was pulling the afternoon shift at the coffee shop when a man entered the store. He approached Jeffrey and asked if he had any work for him to do, like take out the trash, wash dishes, clean the restrooms, anything. Outside in the parking lot, his wife and child were patiently waiting. He explained that he needed only $22 so that his family could stay overnight in a motel down the street.

Unable to assist the gentleman and his family, Jeffrey turned them away. With a quivering smile on his face, tears welling up in his eyes, and trembling hands, the man gave a gracious “thank you” and left the shop. As he walked out the door, his child grabbed his hand and asked innocently, “where are we going now daddy,” as if it was all a game. Feeling hopeless and overcome with grief, Jeffrey gathered all the money from the tip jar and ran outside.

Jeffrey wanted to know why and how this came to be the only avenue of survival for the family. Jeffrey called to the gentleman, who came over to where Jeffrey stood. Jeffrey asked questions and the man began to cry as he told Jeffrey of the kindness he and his family had encountered from people in the Jacksonville community. Particularly, he told of the goodness and generosity of the volunteers working at the homeless shelter and how they had given the family plenty of food and water. However, there are so many people in need of shelter that the beds are assigned on a rotational basis. Tonight, it was too full and the family was sent to find an alternate place to stay.

Jeffrey asked him about his job prospects. The man told him that he worked for day labor, a program where employees get paid by the day, but only if there is work to be done. Friday, there was none. The man said that without a car and permanent place of residence, it was difficult to obtain steady employment. So, the family set out to do the only thing left to do, beg for work.

Jeffrey handed the man $50 and told him that it was all he had. The man began trembling and sobbing, grabbed Jeffrey by the shoulders and just about collapsed in his arms. In shock, Jeffrey just stood there, with arms out, not knowing what to do next. In the distance, Jeffrey observed the child playing in the flowers planted along the curbside. As the child approached the two in shoes that were too big for his tiny feet, his father quickly dried his tears and stood up again, not wanting the child to see his pain. He thanked Jeffrey over and over again and led his family in the direction of the motel.

Later that evening, customers flooded the coffee shop. They ordered their mochas and lattes and never thought twice about paying almost $10 a pop.

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Cooking Corner

Grilled Caribbean Chicken
Taken from allrecipes.com.

Ingredients:
1/4 cup fresh orange juice
1 teaspoon orange zest
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger root
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce
1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh oregano
1 & 1/2 skinless, boneless chicken breasts

Directions:
In a blender, combine the orange juice, orange peel, olive oil, lime juice, ginger, garlic, hot pepper sauce and oregano. Blend into a marinade.
Place chicken breasts in a nonporous glass dish or bowl. Pour marinade over chicken, cover dish or bowl and refrigerate to marinate for at least 2 hours, or up to 24 hours.
Preheat oven to broil OR preheat grill to medium heat and lightly oil grate.
Remove chicken from marinade (disposing of any leftover marinade) and grill or broil 6 inches from the heat source for about 7 minutes per side, or until chicken is cooked through and no longer pink inside.

Nutritional Information:
Servings Per Recipe: 6
Amount Per Serving
Calories: 60
Total Fat: 2.7g
Cholesterol: 17mg
Sodium: 25mg
Total Carbs: 1.8g
Dietary Fiber: 0.1g

Protein: 7g
Weight Watcher Points
For the Chicken - One

This dish would be delicious served with a fresh salad and either rice or mixed vegetables as a side dish.

Cuban Mojito
Taken from tasteforcuba.com.

Ingredients:
1 teaspoon powdered sugar
Juice from 1 lime (2 ounces)
4 mint leaves
1 sprig of mint
Havana Club white Rum (2 ounces)
2 ounces club soda

Directions:
Place the mint leaves into a long mojito glass (often called a “collins” glass) and squeeze the juice from a cut lime over it. You’ll want about two ounces of lime juice, so it may not require all of the juice from a single lime. Add the powdered sugar, and then gently smash the mint into the lime juice and sugar with a muddler (a long wooden device pictured below, though you can also use the back of a fork or spoon if one isn’t available).
Add ice (preferably crushed) then add the rum and stir, and top off with the club soda (you can also stir the club soda in as per your taste). Garnish with a mint sprig.
The Coastal Association of Public Interest Law, more commonly known as CAPIL, has had a very busy term. Just last month, on March 18th, CAPIL hosted a viewing of the documentary "Murder on a Sunday Morning," followed up by a presentation and Q&A session with Ann Finnell and Patrick McGuiness, the two public defenders who successfully fought for the freedom of a wrongly accused murder suspect. More than 100 students and faculty signed up for the event, and even more showed up to watch. Melissa Davenport, President of CAPIL, reported that they had to re-order food twice to keep the attentive horde satisfied.

Speaking of good food, CAPIL also hosted a Dessert Sampler fundraiser on March 20. High on the fifth floor, CAPIL laid out a massive spread of every imaginable mouthwatering baked good. Although slow to start, once the word (and the aroma) was spread around, Coastal students made a bee-line to the food. CAPIL made $300 from the delicious desserts, and then donated that money to the Jacksonville Humane Society.

Also on March 20, CAPIL participated in the Male Beauty Pageant at Reefers. CAPIL's entrant, James Clifton, took a very respectable "first runner up." The proceeds from the pageant are to be split between CAPIL and another charity that will be determined later.

Contact Information: For further information on all these homes, contact Ashley Pollard with Weichert Realtors Ron Wood Associates, 904-403-0479 or e-mail ashpollard@fcsl.edu

Interested in advertising in the Classifieds Section of The Rainmaker? The cost is $5 for students, faculty, and administration. To save your spot, contact Keesha McCray at Therainmaker@fcsl.edu.
The Road Less Traveled to Law School

COLLEEN NORMAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to the registrar’s office, the number of students at Coastal currently totals 1,304. Of that total, only 170 students are over the age of 30. Based on this information, some people may look at the age 30 as a division between traditionally aged students and non-traditionally aged students. However, no magic age classifies a student as NT.

The distinction lies more within the amount of life experiences the student has encountered beyond academia. That is not to say that NTs have a better perspective, rather a different one. As Brenda Page, 3L, explained, “I find everything applicable to things I’ve heard about, done, wondered about, experienced.” Page further explained that she can practice law without worrying about making her mark on the world. “I made my mark, my definition of success has merely changed,” she said.

Professor Leigh Scales, however, during seven years of teaching at Coastal, has not noticed a difference between students based on age. Professor Scales said she has “had strong students and weak students of all ages and backgrounds [and] does not believe that an assumption can be made that older students have better or worse study habits than younger students. ... Each student has his or her own individual circumstances that affect his or her academic success, and it does not seem to necessarily correlate to his or her age or life experience.” NTs are distinct from traditional students in that they have dealt with employers and clients. This might explain why, initially, least most NTs are more vocal and expressive in class than their younger counterparts. On the other hand, NTs are used to getting almost immediate and constant feedback from employers, clients, and coworkers, something that is foreign to the law school experience.

One anonymous NT said, “as a 3L, when I had been so well-respected at work, [law school] was a very difficult transition; the hardest part was never being validated . . . never knowing where I stood.”

The one common thread that resonates with most NTs is that Coastal provides little to no extra-curricular focus on the NT student body. There is a subtle atmosphere of isolation experienced by a majority of NTs because there is no organized method to connect with others who share the challenges and successes unique to NT students.

As another anonymous 3L stated, “I often feel out of the loop and unwanted by some of the younger students.” This topic, though widely discussed by many NTs, is an area of discussion where the sources wish to remain anonymous.

So why do those of us who have “lived” in the world decide to subject ourselves to the rigors of law school? There are, of course, a variety of reasons. For instance, Homer ‘Mac’ McMillan, a 3L, and an ordained minister, sat through a jury voir dire that left him with many questions about lengthy sentences for some non-violent offenses. McMillan did some research on the subject and the findings did not quite line up with what he had always believed.

That is, the importance of rendering compassion and fairness while executing justice. As such, he decided to extend his ministry to the courtroom and hopes to work in the Public Defender’s office upon graduation.

Law firms have to contend with different variables when considering an NT for employment. For example, Attorney Theo Johns, managing partner of the state wide firm of Eraclides, Johns, Hall, Gelman, Johanniszen & Kemper, LLP, said that if faced with two candidates who are equal in law school accomplishments and differ only in the fact that one is an NT, “the older student brings with them maturity, prior experience and knowledge, as well as prior work place accomplishments that may give them an advantage over a ‘green’ candidate.”

On the other hand, Johns said there are some disadvantages to hiring an NT, including a risk that, depending on the personality, the NT candidate may be less willing to follow instructions without first engaging in a debate based on a prior work place experience. Many NTs are older than faculty members, yet the faculty perspective is the least explored in terms of whether or not having NTs in the classroom makes a difference.

Most NTs will tell you that professors generally tend to make in-class comments that target only traditionally aged students. When such targeted comments are made in class, it may add to the subtle atmosphere of isolation toward NTs.

Professor Christopher Roederer said, “[w]hen I was in law school my Dean strongly suggested that people wait a few years after college before applying to law school. People who are out in the work place and then decide to go to law school, not only bring more life experience with them, but they also bring a focus and sense of purpose to their studies that some traditional students lack.”

“As a professor, I have also found this to be the case. The non-social student is generally not going to law school as a default plan, or as just a continuation of their undergraduate degrees. People who have focused and who know what they want to get out of law school will often be able to make more out of their experience here. They also have a great deal to contribute, and the school should make every effort to tap into that experience,” said Roederer.

Top Ten Pitfalls

In The Interview Process

1. Using improper grammar or making spelling mistakes in your cover letter or resume.
2. Including incorrect or outdated information on your resume.
3. Having an inappropriate or unprofessional message on your answering machine (e.g., music in the background or a “humorous” message).
4. Cancelling, showing up late, or not showing up at all, for an interview.
5. Failing to dress appropriately for an interview with a potential employer.
6. Using slang or very informal speech during an interview (e.g., overuse of the word “like”).
7. Failing to ask questions in a job interview.
8. Being too informal in e-mail correspondence (e.g., using “text-message” type communication in an e-mail).
9. Withdrawing a job acceptance when a “better” offer comes along.
10. Failing to withdraw yourself from consideration from other pending opportunities once you have accepted an offer.

The Rainmaker

CONTRIBUTED BY THE COMMUNICATION AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SKILLS SUB-COMMITTEE

In Fall 2007, Florida Coastal School of Law formed a Professionalism Task Force. The Task Force includes Florida Coastal students, professors, administrators, and practitioners. The purpose of the Task Force is to promote professionalism at Florida Coastal and in the legal community.

The Rainmaker will include a message from the Communication and Other Professional Skills Sub-committee of the Professionalism Task Force in its future publications. This first installment is designed to help students during the interview process. A Top 10 Pitfalls List has been created to address some of the common mistakes that are made and should be avoided during the interview process.